

Border Eagle

Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas ... Together we 'XL'



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the inside Scoop

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Base commander illustrates how Laughlin makes a big impact and ties in to the Air Force mission...

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Mission status

(As of Aug. 23)

Days ahead(+) or behind(-)

	+ 2.1
	+ 1.9
	+1.9

Fiscal Year 2000 statistics

--Sorties flown: 61,194
--Hours flown: 90,512.3
--Pilot wings earned in FY 00: 298
--Wings earned since 1963: 11,663

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Microchips: New identification chip gets under pet's skin

By Capt. James A. Amyx

U.S. Army Veterinary Corps

The Laughlin Veterinary Treatment Facility now provides a service that helps identify lost dogs and cats on and off base – even if they are not wearing collars with registration tags.

The new service involves injecting a microchip the size of a grain of rice underneath the skin between the shoulder blades of pets. Once the animal is microchipped, it is then registered with the American Kennel Club's Companion Animal Recovery Program. This registry covers all 50 states, Europe, Canada and all Department of Defense outside of the continental United States duty sites.

These HomeAgain microchips are encoded with a unique 10-digit code, which can be used to retrieve lost pets. Once a pet is scanned the AKC's Companion Animal Recovery Program can be contacted 24 hours a day seven days a week for owner and pet information.

A hand-held scanner can read the information encoded on these chips. Most all of the Armed Forces Veterinary Treatment Facilities and animal shelters possess these scanners. The 47th Security Forces Squadron will also have a scanner in order to quickly identify any stray animals that have been microchipped.

The microchips are safe, permanent and cannot be altered. It is made of a biocompatible material that will not harm animals and has an



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit

Staff Sgt. Wallace Reed, veterinarian technician, Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Treatment Facility, inserts a microchip under the skin of Angus, pet cat of Capt. Michael Cummings, 86th Flying Training Squadron, in a procedure Aug. 16 while Susan Marks of the Laughlin Veterinary Clinic, assists.

anti-migration cap that prevents the chip from moving to other areas of the animal's body. All dogs and cats over six months of age can be microchipped.

The Army Veterinarian, during the monthly vet clinics, can implant microchips by appointment only. The current cost for implanting

the microchip and registration through the AKC is \$15, which is subject to change.

"A microchip is a very effective means to identify a lost animal not wearing a collar and help ensure its safe return home," said Sue Marks, Laughlin VTF. "I think that this

See 'Chips' page 6

Air Force unveils new television commercials

By Tech Sgt. R. R. Getsy

Air Force Print News

Evoking feelings of "pride and patriotism, fascination and diversity," the Air Force has wrapped up test screenings of its new television commercials, which are slated to premiere today in movie theaters and Sept. 2 on network and cable TV.

The unveiling for Pentagon media Wednesday was another initiative to address Air Force re-

cruiting and retention challenges and increase the visibility of the service. Even though the Air Force has met this year's recruiting goal, recruiters are not resting on their laurels.

"These commercials are the next offensive in our war on recruiting and retention," said Secretary of the Air Force Whit Peters. "At the heart of the issue is retaining the quality people we have in America's Air Force today and getting our story out to

people considering what to do with their lives – and to the people who influence them."

Gen. Michael Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, expects the new ads to help boost recruiting and retention by focusing audiences on the challenges and rewards of Air Force service. "These ads reflect the intangible rewards of pride, honor and the higher calling of serving our nation," he said. "They also showcase our incredible people."

Brig. Gen. Ron Rand, Air Force director of public affairs, said the six new commercials consistently portray the dedication and professionalism of Air Force people performing important missions every day.

"We did a lot of research," he said, "that told us we need to advertise on television to help us reach potential recruits and the general public, and also to recognize the people currently serving."

See 'TV' page 6

Commanders Corner

Laughlin impacts Air Force mission

By Lt. Col. David O'Brien

47Aeromedical Dental Squadron commander

Laughlin, located in the quiet South Texas town of Del Rio, is thousands of miles away from the hot spots of the world. Compared to those troubled locations, where U.S. Air Force transport aircraft deliver critical pallets and fighters patrol the sky, Laughlin may seem peripheral to the Air Force mission. It is difficult

to understand how this base is part of the "Real Air Force," especially to those newest in the Air Force. As a squadron commander, I am convinced that this false belief undermines our Air Force culture and lessens our potential value to the national defense.

Without a doubt, we know we train the world's best pilots in the hot, dry skies that surround Val Verde County. These students graduate and go on to excel in some of our country's most valued war-fighting and peace-making assets.

While here at Laughlin, our cadre of instructor pilots not only provide flight training, but also instill AF core values and air power concepts. With that said, it is clear that Laughlin contributes to our future Air Force, growing new military pilots who will one day carry on the legacy of our service. But what role do the rest of us play – non-pilots at this flying university? Our new USAF vision states that "Airmen from all across the Air Force contribute to our ability to deploy and sustain powerful aerospace capabilities whenever and wherever necessary."

The word 'Airman' in its fullest sense, encompasses all of us who make possible the air and space mission of defending our country. Approximately 90 Laughlin mem-

bers are primarily assigned to mobility billets, prepared to deploy and directly support the Expeditionary Air Force. Up to two dozen personnel from our base deployed outside our nation's borders are directly involved with military contingencies. Others leave Laughlin after several years of building their specialty skills, making a permanent change of station move to overseas bases directly supporting con-

tingency operations. I felt great pride when two members of my squadron recently left for assignments at the tip of the spear.

A young airman with her newly acquired 5-skill level, left to join the medical element of a USAFE fighter squadron; another member, a master sergeant, went remote, becoming superintendent of a medical squadron in Korea.

Not all of us will go overseas; as airmen we serve in a whole host of supporting career fields. Airmen enable the mission by ensuring wages are paid, housing is available, health is maintained, food and water are of high quality, education is ongoing, con-

tracts are written and the base is secure and fire-safe. Those contributions are invaluable and are truly needed for our service to fly planes and assure our country's security.

It takes many people and many skills to orchestrate our nation's air and space power. This is clearly true at Laughlin where nearly 4,000 persons work to support our vital training and support missions. Take great pride in what you contribute, whether officer or enlisted, federal employee or contractor. As someone who is intimately involved in airpower, your professional contribution vitally contributes to our nation's security. The "Real Air Force", you are it!

"While here at Laughlin, our cadre of instructor pilots not only provide flight training, but also instill AF core values and air power concepts. With that said, it is clear that Laughlin contributes to our future Air Force, growing new military pilots who will one day carry on the legacy of our service."

Supervisors remain vital Air Force links

By Chief Master Sgt. Lew Monroe

6th Air Refueling Wing

Take a look around. Without even straining your eyes, you can see the most intelligent and capable enlisted force in the history of our Air Force. The young airmen enlisting in the Air Force today are head and shoulders above where we were just a short 20 years ago, but one thing still rings true. Just like us, they desire dedicated leadership.

That's where our attention turns to the most vital link in the supervisory chain – the frontline supervisor.

With people being the most precious resource in the Air Force, training, supervision and development of those people have to be the number one focus. The responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of our staff sergeants and technical sergeants, the frontline supervisors.

These NCOs spend more time with the airmen than the commanders, chiefs and first sergeants combined. Airmen learn to trust and confide in the frontline supervisor, and if the situation is ideal, an airman will fully trust the judgment and direction submitted by the frontline supervisor.

For the most part, airmen respond to the direction of unit leadership based on their sense of discipline, responsibility and the fear of consequences for failure to do so. On the other hand, they respond to the direction of the frontline supervisor out of sheer respect and admiration.

Airmen can identify with the frontline supervisor; they can see themselves as a technical or staff sergeant in years to come. Being the frontline supervisor is within their short-term grasp. This is why the frontline supervisor is the most vital link and must realize his or her importance to the team.

As a frontline supervisor, you must be ready to step up. Realize that your every move is being watched by the most impressionable people in the Air Force – our airmen. Understand that you can tell the airmen anything you want to, point them in any direction you wish, but never forget they will say and do what they see you say and do, no matter

See 'Commentary' page 7

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
Commander
1st Lt. Angela O'Connell
Public affairs officer
Airman 1st Class Brad Pettit
Editor

The Border Eagle is published every Friday, except the first week in January and the last week in December, by the Del Rio News Herald, a private firm in no way connected with the U. S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 47th Flying Training Wing, Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

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"Excellence – not our goal, but our standard."

– 47 FTW motto

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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be E-mailed to:
bradley.pettit@laughlin.af.mil or
reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil

Civilian workforce shaping efforts continue

The Air Force recently held a follow-on Civilian Workforce Shaping Summit to finalize a game plan for policy and legislative changes needed to address civilian force sustainment problems.

"Our goal is to design a strategic plan aimed at maintaining a high quality civilian workforce through recruiting, training and development and retention management," said James Carlock, the Air Force Civilian Workforce Shaping program manager.

Representatives from air staff, major commands and the Air Force Personnel Center attended the two-day summit held last month. The recommendations from the summit will improve the policies and processes involved in how the Air Force hires, trains and retains the civilian force and will support AF Vision 2020, according to Carlock.

Roger Blanchard, assistant deputy chief of staff for personnel, emphasized the urgency of addressing force-shaping issues for current and future mission readiness and performance. He said past reductions because of the drawdown were made through a combination of loss programs, such as early retirement authorities, separation pay and limited hiring practices. Such factors were not balanced across the civilian workforce.

"The Air Force has been developing programs and legislative proposals to ensure our civilian workforce remains highly skilled," said Blanchard. "We are optimistic legislation will soon be passed to help meet our force shaping goals."

"Downsizing has caused some skills and experience imbalances with the civil-



Photo by Senior Airman Suzanne M. Jenkins

Summit participants developed recommendations to improve the policies and processes involved in how the Air Force hires, trains and retains the civilian force.

ian workforce, limiting new hires and how we fill vacancies," Carlock said. "We need the right mix of skills and new hires to accomplish our mission, and we need to start now. The Air Force is facing mission and readiness problems if we don't take action."

At the first Civilian Workforce Shaping Summit in February, Air Force members were called upon to create an integrated approach to attack sustainment problems. More than 50 initiatives were developed.

"Prior to implementing a strategy, we wanted feedback from our workforce on these initiatives," Carlock said. Beginning in May, four private-industry companies were benchmarked, and focus groups were held at 12 Air Force bases to validate the

initiatives.

According to Michelle Lowe-Solis, who helped conduct the focus groups and briefed at the second summit, "Several issues were consistently addressed. Those included the hiring process, pay flexibility issues and diminished training and development opportunities."

"Instability arising from competitive sourcing and privatization was also a concern with focus groups," she said. The results of the focus group interviews generated the most interest among summit members.

During the July summit, participants considered the feedback from the focus group effort to refine and prioritize

See 'Civilians' page 7

AF training operations convert to F-22

The Air Force today approved converting some of its F-15 Eagle training mission at Tyndall AFB, Fla. to the new F-22 Raptor by signing a Record of Decision.

The F-22 conversion, which will gradually replace 60 older F-15s over a five-year period beginning in 2003, includes construction of facilities and an increase of about 400 personnel to support training and maintenance. At the end of the conversion, two F-22 squadrons and one F-15 squadron will support training operations.

The decision is a balanced finding that considers the needs of the Air Force, state and federal regulations and public concerns. It caps a two-year environmental analysis, known as an Environmental Impact Statement.

The new squadrons will train F-22 fighter pilots and maintenance crews. Flight patterns will remain the same with the number of training operations and airspace use over the Gulf of Mexico increasing by 7 percent.

The Record of Decision was signed by Jimmy G. Dishner, deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force (Installations).

For copies of the decision, contact Herman Bell, 325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, 445 Suwannee Road, Suite 129, Tyndall AFB, Fla. 32403.

(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)

Actionline

Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every attempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.



Winfield W. Scott III

Col. Winfield W. Scott III
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Civilian holidays...

Call: My question is about July 3 being a holiday for military but not for civilians. Who is the deciding factor in whether civilians are rewarded for their efforts as well as the military members? I understand that Gen. Michael Ryan deemed it a "family day" for military members. Why are civilians not extended this same privilege military members are? Do we not have families also? Do we not work on the same base? Do we not have the same mission and strive toward the same goals? We used to get goal days occasionally and I know that many bases receive them monthly. Could Col. Skip Scott not make this a goal day for the civilians so that they are rewarded as well as the military? This is sending out a message to those of us civilians on base that no matter how hard we work, the rewards are few and far between.

Response: Thank you for your question. The entire XL team, active duty and civilians are doing a magnificent job supporting our mission. Recognizing and rewarding our people is important and needs to be

done in accordance with Air Force Instructions.

In recognition of the high operations tempo and PERSTEMPO by Air Force personnel around the world, Gen. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, directed July 3 be observed as a Family Day. He encouraged liberal leave for all civilian employees IAW AFI 36-815. Liberal leave is the use of annual leave or leave without pay, without the leave being scheduled and approved in advance by the supervisor.

We could not have granted a time-off award (formerly referred to as Goal Day) on July 3. There are limitations in AFI 36-1004, Managing the Civilian Recognition Program, which must be adhered to before granting a time-off award. Specifically, time-off awards shall not be granted to create the effect of a holiday, or granted to the entire civilian employee population, or a majority of the civilian population to be used on a specified day.

The rules between military and civilian personnel are different. The commitment of our military personnel does not come without peril or price. Duty often calls for prolonged periods away from family and home, in missions that can be difficult and dangerous.

Question of the week

Following 48 days of more than 100 degree weather, what are you doing to beat the heat?



“Stand outside to get acclimated.”

2nd Lt. Kenneth Crow
47th Operations Support Squadron



“Stay in my air-conditioned plane.”

2nd Lt. Sandy Wilson
86th Flying Training Squadron



“Think cold and chew ice.”

Airman Greg Garza
47th Services Division



“I lay out by the lake where there is a breeze.”

Capt. Jo Lindberg
47th Flying Training Wing



From the Blotter

(From Aug. 15-21)



■ The base post office contacted the law enforcement desk and reported a suspicious envelope addressed to the wing commander. A security forces explosive detection dog team working jointly with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations searched and cleared the letter. It was seized by OSI.

■ The security forces law enforcement desk received an unannounced alarm activation at the Del Rio National Bank ATM. Maintenance personnel accidentally activated the alarm while working on the system.

■ The law enforcement desk received a call from a member in housing concerning the theft of yard decorations. Items matching those previously described were found damaged on a nearby street. There are no leads on any suspects.

■ The Del Rio Police Department notified the security forces law enforcement desk that an individual assigned to the base was arrested for driving while intoxicated. An incident report was taken.

■ The law enforcement desk received an emergency 911 call concerning an individual having an asthma attack. Security Forces and medical personnel were dispatched and the

individual was transported to Val Verde Regional Medical Facility.

Tip of the week: Ensure family members are aware of current THREATCONs and actions to be taken during these necessary times. Questions should be addressed to Staff Sgt. Eric Linneman at 5333, or visit the security forces Website at www.laughlin.af.mil/47ftw/support/sfs/anti-terrorism.htm.

Crime prevention tips:

■ Make sure all valuables are marked and keep an inventory. Participate in Operation ID. For more information, call 5100 or 5555.

■ Do not hide keys under doormats.

■ Ensure you lock your doors and windows.

■ Inspect your locks to ensure they are in serviceable condition.

■ If you see anyone acting suspicious, contact the Security Forces at 5100 or 5555.

■ Keep bushes next to your house trimmed to avoid giving a burglar a hiding spot.

■ Do not unnecessarily display valuable property or money.

■ Don't leave children's toys/bikes outside.

■ Don't leave valuable property in your vehicle.

■ Participate in Operation House Watch while on temporary duty assignment or on Leave.

Law of Armed Conflict instructs members on how to fight a war

By Capt. Lucy Carrillo
Base legal office

The Law of Armed Conflict is the broad-based set of rules defining how we fight a war. LOAC differs from the Rules of Engagement in that they are specific instructions telling us how to operate during a specific scenario. We have Southern watch ROE and we had ROE in Operation Desert Storm. LOAC, however, is a set of generalized rules, which would apply to any armed conflict.

Although it may seem strange that we have rules telling us how to fight wars, LOAC principles have developed from a variety of places. Among these are the following:

- Many of the rules have developed over time and come from customs – how countries have conducted themselves in battle throughout history.
- Another place that LOAC rules come from is international law. Some common examples are the Geneva Conventions, Hague Conventions, and the recent Chemical Weapons Convention.

■ Finally, we have rules that develop from U.S. law such as the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and the Code of Conduct.

Now that you know where the law comes from, you may wonder why do we need rules telling us how to fight a war. There are many reasons. Some are political or philosophical. These reasons include minimizing the damage we cause during a war, avoiding unnecessary suffering, protecting human rights and easing the transition from war back to peace.

Although it may seem odd, it has been shown that if a country does its best to inflict as little damage to property and injury to people as possible, the losing country is more likely to accept the terms of peace.

Equally important is that following LOAC helps us in our military operations. For example, it is a violation of LOAC to bomb a church. Most people would agree that a church used only for worship purposes is not a military threat. If we waste a bomb blowing up that church, that is one less bomb we have to use against a military target such as enemy air-

craft hangar. Such bombing also has to potential to create negative public opinion in our country, and to strengthen the opposition in the country we are in conflict with.

So you can see that by following the rules of LOAC, we save our people and weapons for the most important targets. This helps us maximize our mission effectiveness in a war.

LOAC training is mandatory, and must be done every calendar year. There are several ways you can get trained at Laughlin. The Legal Office shows a LOAC video during Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training briefings, and during First Term Airman Course briefings. You may also log on to the Laughlin AFB legal office Website and accomplish LOAC training there.

The Legal Office will also come out to squadrons and brief during commanders calls, or at another briefing. Because this training is mandatory, we need to have 100 percent compliance, and we are only currently at 57%. If you would like to set up a squadron briefing or if you have any other question, please call the Legal Office at 5172.

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“These ads convey important messages: the Air Force does a lot for our country, the Air Force is a diverse family of extraordinary Americans, the Air Force is hiring, and the Air Force values and appreciates its people,” Ryan said.

Describing the cost of the project, Rand said, “We spent \$4.4 million producing the ads, and another \$28.2 million on television and theater advertising which will reach millions of people during the coming year.”

The ads were produced for the Air Force by Siegelgale, a branding and advertising firm in New York. Siegelgale scripted several proposals and hired a Hollywood production company, MJZ, to film the ads at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., and Eglin and Hurlburt AFBs in Florida earlier this year.

The job of directing the new commercials went to Bob Richardson, an Academy Award winner whose credits include being director of photography for box office hits such as “Platoon,” “A Few Good Men,” “JFK” and “Wag the Dog.”

The ads depict scenes of a KC-10 Extender refueling a B-2 Spirit and F-117A Nighthawks. Additional scenes include aerial shots of the F-22 Raptor, as well as F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-15 Eagle fighters flying over the Mojave Desert.

But it’s not just airplanes that are showcased in the commercials.

Bill Coker, assistant director, said the ad campaign’s central theme was to show what it means to be an Air Force member.

“The ads emphasize Air Force people,” he said. “You often see hardware (in past commercials) because it’s exotic and exciting. But what these ads show is the team spirit and sense of adventure in what the rest of the Air Force does. The part that (the public) doesn’t get to see very much, such as what it takes to launch a bomber or fighter.”

Everyone appearing in the ads is an Air Force civilian or military member, such as Airman 1st Class Crystal Pajak, a 412th Component Repair Squadron jet mechanic.

While talking to a friend, she learned that MJZ had selected her

to participate in a commercial. Not surprisingly, Pajak immediately called her family, letting them know “to start looking for me on television soon.”

Following the filming and editing, the commercials were ready for screening by focus groups representing a sampling of the general public and Air Force members.

The civilian focus groups were held in Boston, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Kansas City. The active-duty sessions took place at Patrick AFB, Fla., Moody AFB, Ga. and at Hurlburt and Eglin AFBs.

During the screenings, comments from the audience ranged from the positive to the negative, said Dr. Steve Everett, head of Air Force public affairs research.

“The feedback from the focus groups was extremely important,” said Everett.

“We took all the comments from everyone involved and used them to fine tune the ads.” For example, he said, in the civilian screenings, one ad generated comments ranging from “pride and patriotic” to one by a student who said, “I would have ignored (the ad).”

The commercials also tested a new theme line for the Air Force, “America’s Air Force – No One Comes Close.”

“‘No One Comes Close’ really describes our Air Force,” said Rand. “People in the focus groups interpreted this to mean no other country in the world comes close to the U.S.; no other Air Force in the world comes close to doing what we do; and no other endeavor comes close to the high-tech opportunities available to people in the Air Force.”

“No One Comes Close” offers lots of other communication advantages, said the general. “For example, no one comes close to our technical sophistication, no one comes close to our education opportunities and no one comes close to what we offer our members.”

“Ultimately, we want these ads to evoke strong positive feelings and a greater understanding and awareness of the Air Force, our people and our mission,” Peters said.

(Ray Johnson, Air Force Flight Test Center public affairs, Edwards AFB, Calif., contributed to this article.)

Courtesy AETCNS

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service will definitely increase the amount of base pets that are placed back into the arms of their owners.”

Approximately 14 million dogs and cats found stray are euthanized at animal shelters annually and only 10 percent of all dogs and cats presented to animal shelters have collars with identification tags.

“In today’s age of technology, this chip symbolizes a bold new step to making the world a better place for pets as well as human beings,” said Marks. “I’m excited to see it.”

For more information on HomeAgain microchips, or to schedule an appointment, call the Veterinary Treatment Facility at 5500.

Don’t forget to recycle this newspaper



The *XLer*

Hometown: North Tonawanda, New York.

Family: Husband, Jason; daughter, Kayla Alexis, age 14 months.

Time at Laughlin: 2 years.

Time in service: 2 years, 10 months.

Why did you join the Air Force family? Follow in my father's footsteps.

Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: Have more weekend activities for children.

Greatest accomplishment: Kayla.

Bad habit: Procrastinating.

Motto: Family always comes first!

Favorite beverage: Kool-Aid.

If you could spend one hour with an historical figure, who would it be and why? Jesus, because I love him!



Photo by Amanda Stewart

Airman 1st Class Angela Ripperda
47th Civil Engineer Squadron

Where are they now?

Name: Capt. Darryl Parkinson

Class/Date of graduation from Laughlin: 96-02, December 1995.

Aircraft you now fly and base you are stationed at: F-15C Langley AFB, Va.

Mission of your aircraft? Air Superiority

What do you like most about your current aircraft?

Is at the top of the food chain among aircraft.

What do you dislike most about your current aircraft?

Nothing.

What was the most important thing you learned at Laughlin besides learning to fly? I acquired a base of aeronautical knowledge.

What is your most memorable experience from Laughlin? Flying close formation.

What advice would you give SUPT students at Laughlin? Work hard.



(Air Force photo of a F-15C)

Portland reservists rescue sailor at sea

Four Air Force reservists from here parachuted 3,500 feet into the pitch-black Pacific Ocean just before midnight recently to rescue a sailor more than 1,000 miles from shore.

An active-duty MC-130 aircraft from Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., transported Tech. Sgts. David Armstrong, John Lafferty, Jim Eddings and Scott Light of the 939th Rescue Wing on the five-hour flight from Portland International Airport. Kirtland's 550th Special Operations Squadron aircraft and crew were here to train with the Air Force Reserve Command unit at the time.

After the pararescue specialists hit the water, they inflated their Zodiac boat, gathered their equipment and traveled about a half-mile to an oil tanker where the injured sailor was receiving care. Dan Garr, 57, of the Santa Cruz, Calif., area suffered a broken back, punctured lung and partial paralysis when the mast of a 40-foot sailboat snapped and fell on him.

The rescue mission began when the Coast Guard sent a radio message asking vessels in the area to aid the injured sailor. The Coast Guard then requested assistance from the 939th RQW. Once on board the

tanker, the reservists inserted a chest tube in the man's hemorrhaging lung, gave him medicine and massaged his legs to keep the blood flowing. According to Col. (Dr.) Lewis Neace of the 939th Medical Squadron, Garr would have died if the reservists had not administered medical care. As the tanker steamed toward Portland, members of the wing's 303rd and 304th Rescue Squadrons prepared two HH-60 helicopters and two HC-130 refueling aircraft for the second leg of the rescue mission.

After Garr was secured in a litter enclosed by a wire basket, helicopter crewmembers hoisted the sailor and Eddings onto one of the hovering helicopters. The second helicopter picked up Armstrong, while Lafferty and Light remained on the tanker with the equipment. The HC-130s performed several air refuelings of the helicopters during the nearly nine-hour rescue mission, which ended when the rescue helicopter delivered the sailor to Portland's Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Garr was listed in stable condition Aug. 16.

Courtesy of AFRC News Service

**Safety
belts
save
lives –
so
buckle
up!**

Fraud, Waste and Abuse

Preventing Fraud, Waste
and Abuse is everyone's job!
If you know or suspect FWA,
call the FWA hotline, 298-4170.

‘Commentary’ from
page 2

what you tell them.

If you come to work in a wrinkled uniform and boots not shined, so will your airmen. If the chief points out that you need a haircut, then your airmen probably need haircuts, too. If you are not emphasizing the stupidity of drinking and driving, then it won’t be important to your airmen. You must be involved in every aspect of your troop’s life; yes, every facet. If I haven’t convinced you that the frontline supervisor is our most vital link, then chew on this parallel:

Our children spend an average of 35 to 40 hours a week with an educator we know very little about. Each of us send our children off to school every day praying the teachers are prepared, equipped and care enough to develop our little ones.

Now, think how America has sent you her children. They spend 50 to 60 hours a week under your direct supervision. She is constantly praying that you are prepared, equipped and care enough to develop her children. You are our most vital link!

(Editor’s note: Chief Master Sgt. Lew Monroe is command chief master sergeant for the 6th Air Refueling Wing)

‘Civilians’ from page 3

force-shaping initiatives. “We prioritized initiatives according to impact and our ability to do them,” Carlock said. “By incorporating focus group results, we were able to map out an initial strategy.”

Participants were able to prioritize the top 30 initiatives, based upon impact and ability to implement, officials said. One of the top initiatives in the area of accession planning is to continue pursuing more flexible hiring authority with modifications for geographic recruitment through legislative change.

Another initiative is to develop a bottom-up accession, sustainment and separation model to identify future mission skills requirements.

To better assess recruitment for the civilian force, personnel officials are developing surveys that will find out why applicants accept (or decline) positions with the Air Force. Along these lines, they will administer exit surveys

to employees who elect to leave the Air Force. Continued use of such surveys will assist officials in identifying needed changes to the Air Force’s recruiting and retention efforts.

Officials said the next step is to assign initiatives to Air Force headquarters action officers for development and implementation.

As an added measure, private-industry leaders and academia will give the initiatives an “out-of-the-box” look at a symposium to be hosted by the under secretary of the Air Force.

“This look will add value because it will yield feedback on our initiatives as well as industry best practices,” Lowe-Solis said.

“They may provide key insights into making our strategy more realistic and effective.”

Results of the summit, focus groups and symposium will be used by senior Air Force leaders to make the final decision on recommended initiatives to pursue for legislative and policy changes.

Courtesy AFPN

Fraud, Waste
and Abuse

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FWA, call the FWA hotline,
298-4170.

Tuskegee airman visits latest generation

By Ross Day

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

When most people hear the term “Tuskegee Airmen,” thoughts automatically go to young, African-American pilots “slipping the surly bonds of earth” in their P-51 Mustang fighters.

There was, however, another group who served with the famous 332nd Fighter Group in Italy during World War II – those who helped keep the sleek Mustangs in combat condition.

Leon W. Neal was one of those unsung heroes who served as a radio technician with the 1000th Signal Company attached to the 332nd. He helped ensure clear and constant communication while the Tuskegee pilots were in

the air defending Allied bombers from the Luftwaffe menace.

Neal, who rose to the rank of sergeant during the war, was in San Antonio Aug. 11 attending the Tuskegee Airmen annual convention.

“This is the first of these reunions I’ve attended,” he said. “It’s quite an affair. I’ve seen a lot of people I knew.”

However, at the top of his San Antonio agenda was a visit with his grandson, Airman Basic Quentin C. Manson, currently in his fifth week of Air Force basic military training at Lackland. The reunion, the one between grandfather and grandson, was a warm one. As they walked across the Lackland parade field toward a static display P-51 Mustang dedicated to the Tuskegee

Airmen, Neal told of his involvement in the war.

“I’m one of the many Tuskegee Airmen who never saw the airfield in Alabama,” Neal explained. “I was attending trade schools up north studying communications. I got a draft notice in 1942 and went to Selfridge Field in Michigan. From there, I went to Rome Army Depot in New York for more radio training.”

As grandson and grandfather walked around the silver P-51 fighter, Manson was given a quick history lesson.

“These drop tanks gave the fighters a lot of extra range,” said Neal. “And there was a panel here we could open to get to the radios.”

As Manson listened to his



Photo by Ross Day

Leon W. Neal (right), and his grandson, Airman Basic Quentin C. Manson, pause near a P-51 Mustang on static display near the Lackland Air Force Base parade ground.

grandfather recount his experiences of more than five decades ago, there came the realization of a generation gap not so much caused by age, but by advances in technology.

“I will be training as a space systems operations specialist,” said Mason.

“I see my grandfather’s era

and think how far we’ve come.”

Once he completes basic military training, Manson will go to technical school at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. The aircraft his grandfather helped maintain had a service ceiling of 42,000 feet. For his grandson, there will be no altitude limits.

Courtesy AETCNS

Pilot for a day: *Vance instructor pilot makes ill child's dream of flying come true*

By Tech. Sgt. Jose Ruiz
71st Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The dream of flying is common among the world's children. Wherever there is an airplane flying in the presence of children, there is likely to be a child looking up in amazement and wondering what it must feel like to be a pilot.

Monica Fleshman, a 9-year-old patient at the Oklahoma City Children's Hospital, is also a child who enjoys airplanes. But, she has an illness that prevents her from being able to visit airports and air bases at will. For Fleshman, experiencing what it's like to be a pilot was something she could only dream about.

That all changed Aug. 4, thanks in part to the efforts of a Vance instructor pilot.

Capt. David Goldstein, assigned to the 33rd Flying Training Squadron, invited Fleshman to Vance as part of the Pilot For a Day Program. A program he established at Vance AFB, Okla. to help ill children like Fleshman experience the thrill of aviation by touring flying squadrons, meeting pilots, getting an up close look at the wing's aircraft and experiencing the feel of flight inside various flight training simulators.

Goldstein said he was moved by the Randolph program. So much so that, after completing instructor pilot training and returning to Vance, he began working to establish a similar program at Vance AFB.

"It's a good program. It helps kids who have gotten a raw deal in life to get away from their worries," he explained.

Goldstein also said he was confident that members of Team Vance would willingly support the program, primarily because he had seen them show overwhelming support to other community programs while attending Joint Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

"Vance has a very good relationship with its community," he said. "Programs like Camp Tomahawk, Christmas in April and Special Olympics, just to



Photo by Kent Cummins

Capt. David Goldstein, 33rd Flying Training Squadron, helps Monica Fleshman, a 9-year-old Oklahoma City Children's Hospital patient, try on a parachute as part of the Pilot For a Day program.

name a few, contribute greatly to that relationship."

Goldstein contacted the Oklahoma City Children's Hospital and asked the social worker to select a child for the program based on interests and physical ability.

"Aside from expressing enthusiasm for this type of thing, the child must also have the physical ability to endure the program's activities at this point in their treatment," Goldstein explained. "They must be able to leave the hospital, come to Vance and walk around as they go from one activity to the next. They must also have a less restrictive diet."

"That's why we let the social worker at the hospital select the child," he added, "because they know the children best and are best qualified to make the proper choice."

The social worker's first choice for the program was Fleshman, who visited the base accompanied by her father, Jeff and her brother, Joseph. Her visit officially began at the 8th Flying Training Squadron, where Cmdr. Lawrence Coy presented the young pilot for a day with a flight suit, squadron patches, a personalized

She also met with Col. Richard Warner, 33rd FTS commander, who presented Fleshman with a matted T-37 lithograph, signed by all the instructor pilots, and a squadron T-shirt, also courtesy of the Vance Officers' Spouses' Club.

Overall, Goldstein categorized the first Pilot For a Day visit as "a great day for a deserving child," a result he attributes to the help he has received from his fellow Team Vance members.

"Organizing this has been made a lot easier by the fact that everybody has been enthusiastic

supporters," he said. "A lot of people have devoted their time and effort to ensure Monica enjoys a great day away from any other concerns she may have at this time. This day would not have been possible without their help."

According to Goldstein, the biggest reward for his efforts will be knowing that the program will have an enduring positive impact in the lives of the children it reaches.

"It feels pretty good to know that you're helping someone else out," he said. "That for me is thanks enough."

Courtesy AETCNS

Base member explains how improperly tied-up pets can lose their Laughlin residency privileges

By 1st Lt.
Angela O'Connell
Public affairs officer

The neighborhood is quiet. You are running your typical morning 5K and suddenly you look behind you. What is that? You keep going and going, trying to get away. If only your feet could go faster. It's getting closer and closer. You use every last bit of energy to try to out run it and then in a second WHAM! You are bitten by a dog that was not tied up properly.

This may sound like an over exaggeration, but animal bites and scratches happen fairly frequently, and they are avoidable instances. The ability to have a pet on base is a privilege not a right. For that privilege, there are a few simple rules to follow. This helps make the environment pleasant for everyone that lives here; even the non-pet lovers.

First, there are a couple of things that will cause your pet to be removed from the base. A verified report of an unprovoked animal bite can be grounds for your pet to be removed from the installation. This may sound harsh, but it is for the safety of everyone involved. Also, if an owner fails to control their pet for two or more confirmed incidents, this also could lead to dismissal.

There are very clear guidelines to controlling your pet. The highlights are listed below:

- Have your pet vaccinated against rabies by the time it is four months of age and within each subsequent 12 month interval.
- Ensure your pets are registered on base within 10 days of their arrival on the installation.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brad

Nikita, pet dog of 1st Lt. Angela O'Connell, 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office and Capt. James O'Connell, 86th Flying Training Squadron, peers out from behind a chain link fence Thursday. Fences and/or leashes are required to restrain base pets while they are outside.

- Maintain the rabies vaccination certificate for one year of issue date.
- Ensure your pet has its rabies tag attached to its collar whenever it is outside.
- Contain pets within a fenced area, on a leash, or tether when outside.
- The leash can be no longer than six feet.
- Do not tether to government property (trees, porches, gutters, etc).

The rules for maintaining a pet are easy to follow. It is a matter of common courtesy to your neighbors.

When you made the choice to buy a pet to add to your family, they did not sign up for 3 a.m. barking, friendly deposits on their lawns or threats to their safety.

Keep this in mind when dealing with your pet and you will not have any problems with Fido being banished from the base. Be a friendly neighbor!

Fraud, Waste and Abuse is everyone's problem ... if you know of or suspect Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the FWA hotline at 298-4170.

NCO takes fifth in body building competition

By Senior Airman

J. Propst

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A Luke AFB, Ariz. NCO recently placed fifth in the Arizona State Bodybuilding Championship at the Chandler Center of Arts.

Like most people, Staff Sgt. Anthony Griffin, 56th Medical Operations Squadron, allergies and immunization technician, had a fitness goal. Again, like many people, Griffin was not focused or motivated enough to reach that goal.

Two years ago his motivation finally arrived in a picture. It wasn't a poster of a sleek body builder he wanted to look like, but rather a picture of himself slightly overweight and out of shape.

"I've always wanted to be a body builder, but I was not focused enough," Griffin said. When he saw that picture, he knew he had to work out and get in shape.

From there, Griffin began reading books and fitness magazines to

learn fitness and eating tips.

But the going wasn't easy. Griffin, like most people who begin workout programs, faced a few challenges.

"When I began learning exercises, I was using poor technique and I tore the rotator cuff in my shoulder," Griffin said.

But Griffin didn't give up his dream. Instead, he went through two months of physical therapy and spent more time learning how to properly perform exercises to prevent further injuries.

Knowing he wanted to be a body builder and actually competing are two different things. Months of preparation are required before competitions. To prepare, Griffin added an hour of cardio exercise each day to his normal workout routine, which included weight training four times a week. Griffin also lost 52 pounds to put him at a competition weight of 144 pounds. At 5 feet 8 inches, Griffin was down to four percent

body fat.

Griffin did this with the help of Frank Kramer, an Air Force Reservist and competition body builder. All for 90 seconds of fame. That's how long competitors have to show the judges their physique. Griffin used that time well, placing fifth in the bantam weight class.

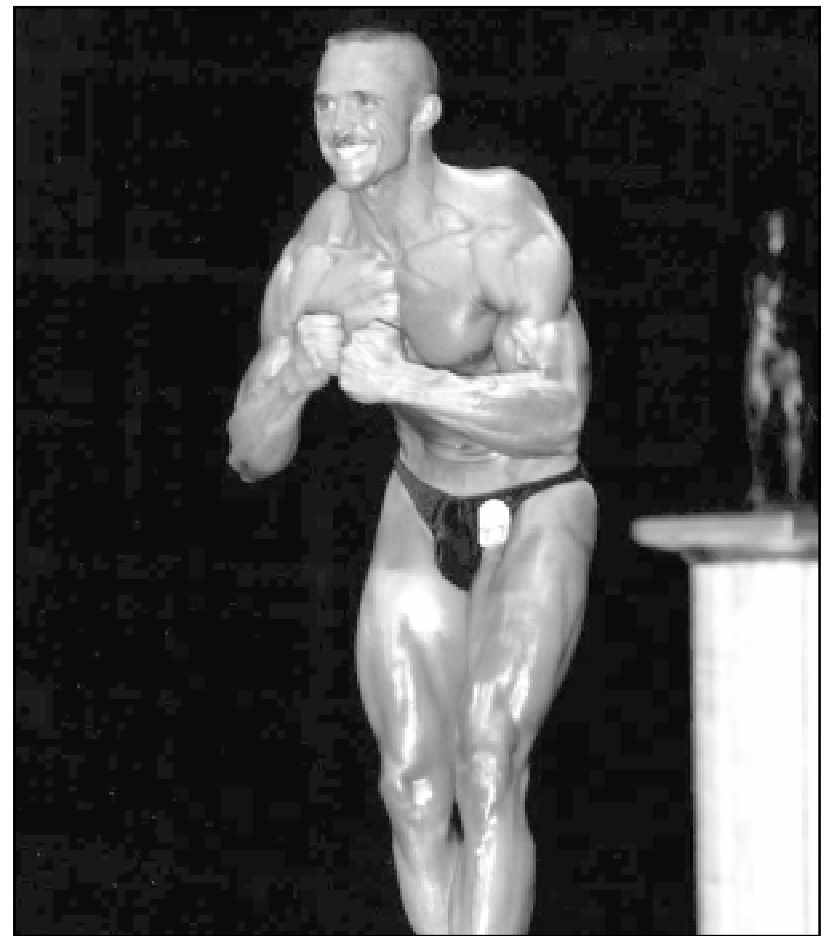
Still not satisfied with this accomplishment Griffin raised his goal.

"I dieted and lost too much weight for this competition," Griffin said. "Next time I want to be in the middle weight class."

Griffin hopes to have a competition weight of 175 pounds for the U.S. western regional. To get there, Griffin will continue his weight training and a solid diet. According to Griffin, a good diet is 80 percent of body building.

"(People who want to get into body building) need a sound diet plan and persistence," Griffin said. "Set realistic goals and go for them."

Courtesy AETCNS



Courtesy photo

Griffin displays his physique during the Arizona State Championship.

Hospital officials discuss sports bars and nutritional supplements

By Maj. Craig A. Olson

60th Medical Group Nutritional Medicine Flight

Like many Americans, Air Force members are constantly on the go and constantly trying to stay in shape. It's no wonder the market for nutritional supplements, including sports bars, has skyrocketed in recent years. This high demand breeds competition among businesses looking for new ways to get their products noticed.

Competition may be healthy for the market, but it can lead to trouble for an unsuspecting consumer. The use of exotic ingredients and unsubstantiated health claims make the nutritional supplement industry a very confusing arena. Air Force personnel have to be especially careful when shopping for nutritional supplements because some contain hemp seed oil.

Ingestion of hemp seed oil is against Air Force policy because it may lead to a positive drug test result for marijuana.

"Modifications are being considered for the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Program to

ban all hemp seed products, not just hemp seed oil," said Lt. Col. Susan Northrup, chief of operational medicine for the Office of the Surgeon General. This is an important clarification because all products made with hemp products may contain the same substances found in marijuana.

From a botanical standpoint, hemp and marijuana are the same plant species – cannabis sativa. The different parts of the plant contain varying amounts of psychoactive substances, the highest concentrations of which are in the resin of the flowering tops of the plants. Industrial hemp plants are grown in countries around the world, and the seeds are sold commercially for use as birdseed, as ingredients in commercially prepared foods and even for cooking at home.

Hemp seeds don't contain tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the euphoria-producing active ingredient in marijuana. So why the concern? Hemp seeds can pick up the chemical after coming into contact with leaves and stems during processing. Products that contain hemp seed oil or hemp seeds, like the Original Organic Hemp Seed Bar, manufactured

by Nutiva, are off limits for some Air Force personnel.

In a recent memorandum, Northrup said, "due to the potential of THC ingestion, this product is off limits for all aircrew, special duty and PRP personnel per AFI (Air Force Instruction) 48-123 (*MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND STANDARDS*) and AFI 36-2104 (*NUCLEAR WEAPONS PERSONNEL RELIABILITY PROGRAM*). All other Air Force members should seriously weigh the use of this product, with a known THC contaminant, against the legal ramifications of a positive urine drug screen."

Why would anyone want to eat hemp seeds or hemp seed oil? According to Capt. Deborah Carlton, chief of clinical dietetics element at David Grant Medical Center here, the answer is simple. She said, "Hemp products are marketed by manufacturers as being a good source of essential fatty acids and protein."

She went on to describe how informed consumers know that a well-balanced diet will meet their needs for protein, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals without the use of supplements.

For more information about dietary herbs and supplements, visit the Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, Web site, Operational Alternative and Complimentary Medicine.

Courtesy of AFPM

"Modifications are being considered for the Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Treatment Program to ban all hemp seed products, not just hemp seed oil."

***-Lt. Col. Susan Northrup
Chief of operational medicine,
Office of the Surgeon General***

ATTN: Trap and skeet

The trap and skeet range is open every Saturday from noon until 4:30 p.m. The cost per round of trap or skeet is \$2.50, which includes 25 targets.

For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 5830.

Flag football season arrives

Intramural flag football letters of intent and practice equipment is available at the XL Fitness Center.

For more information, call the fitness center at 5251.

Intramural bowling

The intramural bowling season will begin Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. Sign up now at the Cactus Lanes Bowling.

For more information, contact Master Sgt. Mark Wurzer at 5109.

Golf standings

Team	Pts.
Fire Dept.	135
OSS	126.5
LCSAM	121
LSI 1	112

Laughlin history

Q: In October 1952, Laughlin's mission changed to advanced fighter pilot training in the F-84 and T-33.

Training was delayed for which of the following reasons:

- (a) Lack of suitable gunnery ranges
- (b) Lack of facilities, housing and instructors
- (c) Students earmarked for Laughlin were sent to other bases
- (d) All of the above

The correct answer is ... (d). When reactivated in May 1952, only the runways were still intact. Even though the base had to be rebuilt from scratch, two student classes were redirected to other training bases, aircraft and instructors were slow to come in and the two air to ground gunnery ranges were not acquired until some time after training commenced. The first class of students was only delayed by a little over a month. The first class, of ten weeks duration and conducted on a six-day work week, began on Feb. 19, 1953. In spite of frequent dust storms, which often lowered visibility to zero, and high wind velocity, the class graduated on schedule on April 29, 1953.

Phone-in prescriptions

Effective immediately, the 47th Medical Group Pharmacy will be providing a new service in processing prescription refills. A state-of-the-art automated phone-in refill system has been installed, which will not only eliminate wasting times on refill prescriptions, but also help the pharmacy staff more efficiently manage all prescription processing.

The toll-free phone number is 1-877-252-4523. You will be asked to enter the last four digits of the sponsor's social security number as well as the prescription number(s).

For more information on this new procedure, call the pharmacy at 298-6451.

Privacy Act information

The purpose of the Privacy Act Program (Air Force Instruction 33-332) is to protect the privacy or individuals. Privacy Act information includes your social security number, home address and home telephone. Here are some tips to ensure you protect this information:

■ Do not dispose of Privacy Act documentation using trash bins. This documentation should first be shredded

before disposal. Shredders can be used in the staging area of Bldg. #348 for high volume shredding. Call 5618 to use the shredder.

■ Label each diskette, tape, etc., that contains Privacy Act information with an AFVA 33-207, Air Force Privacy Act label.

■ Most importantly, protect Privacy Act information from unauthorized disclosure. Only persons performing their official duties and having a need to know should have access.

For more information, please contact the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act Office, at 5618.

Tobacco cessation course

The next tobacco cessation course starts Sept. 5. Classes will be held on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. or 4:30 p.m. in the Health and Wellness Center Conference Room.

For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Ray Fernandez at 6463 or 6464.

Enlisted ceremonies

The Noncommissioned Officer Induction and Enlisted Promotion Ceremony will be held at 3:30 Thursday at Club Amistad.

Laughlin's staff sergeant selects will be inducted into the NCO corps and promotees for September will be recognized.

For more information, call Master Sgt. James Donnett at 5068.

American Legion meeting

The Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post 298 will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at "The Barn" across from Laughlin's Main Gate. Discussion about the membership drive, Fiesta de Amistad parade and the Base Open House activities will be key topics.

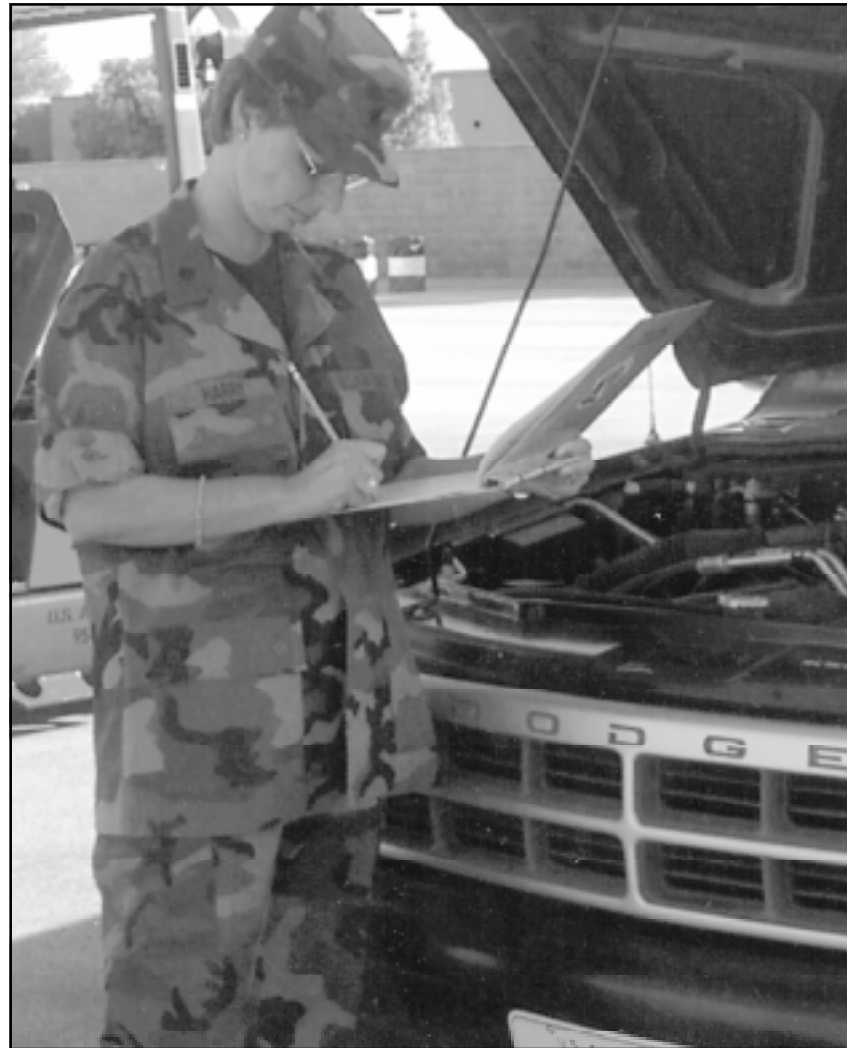
Anyone interested in veteran and military affairs and benefits is invited to attend. If you are currently active-duty and honorable status, you are eligible to join!

For more information, call Cmdr. Murry Kachel at 298-2097 or visit the web site: <http://www.delrio.com/~mkachel/al/index.htm>.

Education office services

The following tests are offered at the Base Education Office:

- CLEP English Composition with Essay test on Oct. 10. The deadline to sign up is Monday. The test is free for active-duty military personnel and \$44 for civilians.
- Automotive Service Excellence Certification Exams



Top Wheels

Lt. Col. Jacqueline Harry, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, inspects a vehicle in the 47th Support Group's quarterly Top Wheels competition. In the General Purpose Category, David Benson, Lier Siegler, Inc. and in the Special Purpose Category, Lorenzo Perez, 47th Support Group were recognized for keeping government owned vehicles to impeccable cleanliness standards.

Nov. 9, 14 and 16. The cost of each ASE exam is \$21 in addition to the \$26 registration fee. The deadline to sign up is Sept. 6.

■ Praxis tests (all tests) Nov. 20. The deadline to sign up is Oct. 2.

For more information on these tests, please call the Base Education Office at 5525.

Chain e-mails

It seems as though this subject will not go away! Why? Because many people think their e-mail doesn't fall into the category of chain e-mail. A chain e-mail is a file that everyone thinks everyone else has to see, so everyone on the address list forwards the message to someone else who hasn't seen it yet.

Most of the time it starts out innocently, but ends up bogging down our local access networks and e-mail systems. Everyone at Laughlin is encouraged to refrain from this type of situation. Remember, use of e-mail is restricted to "official communications." Sending personal information over the e-mail system violates AFI 33-119.

For more information, call Frederick Ervin at 4271.

Safety Stats

Subject:	FY 00	FY 99	FY 98
On Duty	6	5	11
Off Duty	3	12	7
Traffic	0	2	4
Sports/Rec	2	6	3
Fatalities	0	0	2

(Current as of Aug. 22, 2000)

The Operational Readiness Inspection outbrief is scheduled to be held in the Operations Training Complex auditorium for ticket holders Sept. 1. Be in place by 8:10 a.m.